

CLAIMS:

1. Method for exchanging data between a first and a second functional unit, comprising the following steps
 - in a first handshake procedure, data is exchanged corresponding to a communication thread (TID) selected by the first functional unit (I), while independently
 - 5 - in a second handshake procedure, information relating to a status of at least one communication thread is exchanged from the second (T) to the first functional unit (I) characterized in that, the information enables the first functional unit (I) to anticipate the possibility of exchanging data for at least one communication thread.
- 10 2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the information is indicative for the filling degree of a buffer reserved for the at least one communication thread.
- 15 3. Method according to claim 1, wherein the information is indicative for an expected waiting time before a request relating to the at least one communication thread can be handled.
- 20 4. Processing system comprising a first and a second functional unit, the processing system being arranged to exchange data corresponding to a communication thread (TID) selected by the first functional unit (I) in a first handshake procedure, while independently exchanging information relating to a status of at least one communication thread from the second (T) to the first functional unit (I) in a second handshake procedure characterized in that, the information enables the first functional unit (I) to anticipate the possibility of exchanging data for the at least one communication thread.
- 25 5. Processing system according to claim 4 comprising a plurality of functional units in a network, the processing system being arranged to transmit data and a communication thread identifier for said data according to a split protocol along a

communication path from a source functional unit (SFU) to a destination functional unit (DFU) via one or more intermediate functional units (IFU), including a first functional unit and a second functional unit.